

## REMARKS

The application includes claims 1, 3-13, 15, 17-21, and 23-29 before entering this amendment.

The applicants cancel claims 7, 13, 15, 17-21, and 23-29, without prejudice.

The application remains with claims 1, 3-6, and 8-12 after entering this amendment.

The applicants do not add new matter and request reconsideration.

### Claim Rejections Under § 102

The examiner rejected claims 1, 3-6, and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Golden et al. (PCT application PCT/US99/07818, publication WO99/53719).

The applicants herewith have filed a Petition To Accept Unintentionally Delayed Priority Claim Under 35 U.S.C. § 120 with the Director. The applicants have amended the specification to make reference to the prior-filed application and the relationship between the present and the prior-filed application as required under 37 CFR § 1.78 (a) (3) and (a) (6).

The applicants note that Golden is commonly assigned and lists two common inventors. Golden, in turn, is a continuation of U.S. application 09/060,520, filed 4/14/1998.

The priority claim, if granted, will result in the present application being a continuation-in-part of the '520 application, which is the parent of Golden. The priority claim, if granted, will therefore remove Golden as prior art to the present application to thereby moot the examiner's rejections. The applicants ask the examiner to stay prosecution until the Director has an opportunity to consider the Petition.

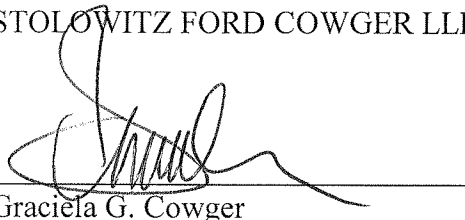
### CONCLUSION

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-6, and 8-12. The applicants encourage the examiner to call if a conference would advance prosecution.

**Customer No. 73552**

Respectfully submitted,

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